Constitution of its own Election Commission by Hurriyat Conference

*247. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hurriyat Conference has constituted its own Election Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Hurriyat Conference made an announcement on 28th January, 2002 about its intention to establish its own election commission to elect representatives who would participate in any negotiations on Kashmir. Hurriyat Conference further announced on 12th February, 2002 the composition of the proposed election commission. As per the Hurriyat, the said commission would be governed by rules to be framed later.

Election to the Legislative Assembly of the State of Jammu & Kashmir are held in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir and are conducted by and under the supervision of the Election Commission of India. No other body/institution has any *locus standi* in the matter.

Proposal to Procure Weapons from the USA

†*248. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are considering any proposal for procurement of weapons from the USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the USA to the proposal;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.